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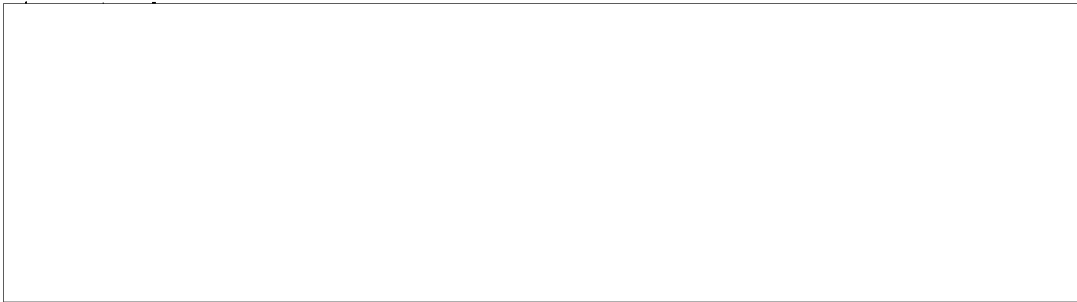
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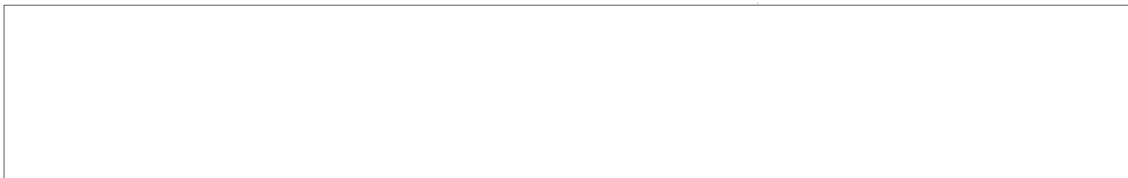
GENERAL

1. UK position on the Antarctic controversy--The UK Foreign Office has informed US Embassy London that the UK Ambassador in Washington will approach Secretary Marshall on 19 or 20 February regarding a "general Antarctic settlement." Bevin has instructed the Foreign Office that in such a settlement: (a) the UK should not get involved in any inter-American matters; (b) no opportunity should be given the USSR to intervene; and (c) the UK proposals should fit into the British overall strategic and political plans, including the proposed western European union.



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2. France to proceed with French-Italian customs union--US Ambassador Caffery has learned from the French Foreign Office that France and Italy have agreed to announce very shortly their intention to draw up a customs union agreement. The Foreign Office spokesman added that France would have preferred to include other countries in this union but had decided to go ahead with Italy alone, because the Benelux countries appeared reluctant to join.



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State Dept. review completed

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EUROPE

4. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Communists may precipitate crisis - US Charge Bruins in Prague, in commenting on the current political crisis in Czechoslovakia over the question of Communist control of the police, expresses the view that if the Communists regard a breakdown of the National Front coalition government as unavoidable, they will precipitate it at once. Bruins believes that the Communists would want to utilize trade union meetings already scheduled for 12 February as a basis for public demonstrations.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs in this estimate. The refusal of the Communists to comply with the recent demand of the Moderates for changes in the police organization reveals that the Communists believe continued control of the police to be essential to their victory in the May elections.)

5. GREECE: Government concerned over long-range plans - AMAG Chief Griswold reports that the Greek Government is concerned over the possibility of a "real war" within the next two or three years and has inquired as to US long-range plans regarding Greece. Griswold adds that AMAG and the US Embassy are convinced that this concern is one important factor which is diverting the Government's attention from: (a) the acute economic and political danger inherent in the guerrilla activities; and (b) the serious likelihood of the collapse of democratic Greece, involving either Communist control or rightist dictatorship, unless the guerrillas are decisively defeated and dispersed within six or seven months at most.

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NEAR EAST-AFRICA

6. **SAUDI ARABIA:** Announcement of President's request protested--US Minister Childs reports that the Saudi Arabian Government has reacted very unfavorably to the public announcement of the fact that President Truman had requested several Arab states to exercise restraint on the Palestine issue. Childs adds that for this reason he does not consider the moment opportune to request an extension of US rights to the Dhahran air base.
7. **TURKEY:** General Staff requests tactical instruction--US Ambassador Wilson reports that the Turkish General Staff has requested that the US provide as soon as possible additional personnel for tactical instruction. Wilson strongly recommends the granting of this request because he feels it will be of little value to the Turks to learn how to use US equipment unless they also learn how to handle it in the field. According to Wilson, about 15 qualified instructors with combat experience would be required for such instruction.

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